

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Previously presented) An apparatus for determining and/or monitoring the filling level of a product or the position of the interface between two media or phases in a container, comprising:

a signal-generating unit which generates high-frequency measuring signals;

a waveguide which comprises a plurality of pieces which are connected to one another via at least one flexible intermediate piece;

a coupling-in unit for coupling in onto said waveguide the measuring signals, said waveguide extending in the direction of the product when the apparatus is mounted on the container; and

a receiving/evaluating unit for determining the filling level of the product or the position of the interface in the container via the delay time of the measuring signals reflected at the surface or interface of the product.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 21, wherein said flexible intermediate piece comprises a wire cable.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 21, wherein said flexible intermediate piece comprises a universal joint.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 21, wherein said pieces are tubes or rods.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein said flexible intermediate piece comprises a wire cable.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein said flexible intermediate piece comprises a universal joint.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein a crimped connection is provided between said piece and said flexible intermediate piece.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 27, further comprising:

a tubular mesh which encloses said flexible intermediate piece and which terminates essentially flush with the surfaces of said pieces.

29. (Previously presented) An apparatus for determining and/or monitoring the filling level of a product or the position of the interface between two media or phases in a container, comprising:

a signal-generating unit which generates high-frequency measuring signals;

a waveguide which comprises a flexible element which is surrounded on its surface by a metal mesh;

a coupling-in unit for coupling in onto said waveguide the measuring signals, said waveguide extending in the direction of the product when the apparatus is mounted on the container; and

a receiving/evaluating unit for determining the filling level of the product or the position of said interface in the container via the delay time of the measuring signals reflected at the surface or interface of the product.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, wherein a defect is provided which serves as a reference for the linear measurement in at least one predetermined region of said waveguide.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 30, wherein said at least one defect is defined by a change in the geometry of the waveguide.